

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. All offices of the Ministry of Health are located in a large compound at 15 Ulica Miodowa, Warsaw, which was formerly occupied by the District Court. The present Minister of Health is Dr. Boguslaw Kozusznik, and his deputy is Dr. Bogdan Bednarski, who is 50 years of age.¹
2. The Cadre Education Department (Szkolenie Kadri), a special department of the Ministry, is in charge of education problems, post-graduate courses and specialized training of physicians in Poland or abroad, particularly the USSR, and the exchange of students of medicine with neighboring Communist countries. This department, headed by Dr. Wolski, has an administrative staff of approximately 30 persons.²
3. The Young Doctors' Department (Oddzial Mlodych Lekarzy) of the Ministry controls the assignment of physicians graduating from the universities to all parts of the country, in accordance with the requirements of each district. At the time he receives his degree, each graduate signs a contract with the Ministry according to which he must work as a physician at the place he is assigned and for a period equal to the number of years he has studied at the university at government expense. The head of this department in the district of Warsaw is Dr. Pachol, 45 years of age, who was a partisan during the German occupation. His deputy in charge of administrative matters is Dr. Eberhart, 70 years of age. These officials are Party members.
4. The head of the Press and Propaganda Department of the Ministry is Dr. Zygmunt Grynberg,³ approximately 60 years of age, who was the physician of a home for the aged in Warsaw before the war. He has filled his present post since 1945 and is a devoted Party member.
5. A special department of the Ministry is in charge of the training of nurses and their assignment to hospitals and health stations throughout the country.

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25X1A

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- 2 -

6. Physicians and nurses are available in sufficient numbers in Warsaw, but there is a serious shortage in provincial towns and villages. Two-year courses for registered nurses and six-month courses for assistant nurses are given in all Warsaw hospitals and larger hospitals in provincial towns. About 500 girls are now being trained in these courses in Warsaw.
7. The minimum educational requirement of candidates for nursing courses is elementary schooling. There are enough candidates willing to train as nurses, most of them coming from peasants' and workers' families. They regard nursing as a better career than working in a factory or in agriculture. In addition to full board, they receive 200 zloty per month as "pocket money" during their training, and upon graduation from the course they start with a Grade 4 salary of 900 zloty per month. This salary increases gradually up to a maximum of 1,500 zloty after a seniority of five years, with an additional slight increase for head nurses.
8. Except for Party members, who are not allowed to practice medicine privately, physicians over 60 years of age and those who can prove that they are physically unfit to take upon themselves the burden of employment in a hospital or medical station, may devote all their time to private practice in their homes; other physicians are obliged to work two and one-half, four, five or the full eight hours at the place to which they are assigned and may practice privately in their spare time.
9. All physicians practicing privately must obtain from the Tax Office (Urząd Podatkowy) a tax booklet called Książka Podatkowa No. 3, which is similar to the tax booklets issued to dentists, lawyers, etc. who practice privately. This book serves as a register wherein the physician must enter the name of every patient and the fees paid by him, except for gynecological and venereal cases when the patients' names may be omitted. The physician must also make out a receipt in duplicate for the fees accepted by him, give the original to the patient, and keep the copy for control by the income tax authorities. He pays 25 percent of his gross income as income tax every month. The Tax Office carries out a general revision of the taxes paid by independent persons and may demand another large amount in addition to the regular 25 percent paid every month.
10. All physicians and other health service personnel are members of the national organization of health workers (Związek Służby Zdrowia), the central offices of which are located at 22 Aleja Stalina, Warsaw. It employs an administrative staff of at least 200 clerks. An average of 20 zloty per month is deducted from health workers' salaries as membership fees.
11. Approximately 50 percent of the physicians in Poland are members of the Party; nurses, assistant nurses, auxiliary workers, etc., are Party members almost without exception. A politruk, who is not a physician, is assigned by the Party to every hospital or clinic and holds the position of deputy director. His authority in all matters not related to the actual medical care of the patients is supreme. His duties and responsibilities are identical with those of other Party delegates in any factory, institution, office, etc. The smallest medical stations, first aid stations, and departments of polyclinics have a "confidant" (Maz Zaufania), a Party delegate who reports to his superiors in the Party every ten days.
12. The national health insurance organization (Ubezpieczalnia Społeczna) provides free medical care for all workers and their families. Every factory which has at least 400 workers has its own medical station with a full-time nurse and a physician, assigned by the organization, who treats patients in the factory three or four times a week.
13. Every hospital in Warsaw, except that for infectious diseases, has a medical station for outpatients, which is served by all physicians and nurses of the hospital in turn. In addition there is a central medical station (Ambulatorium) at 34 Jagiellońska Street, Praga District, Warsaw, serving all outpatients who are members in the national health insurance plan. This station has departments for internal diseases, skin and venereal diseases, laryngology, neurology, gynecology, urology, surgery, childrens' diseases, X-ray, and the examination of suspected cases of tuberculosis. It is directed by Dr. Bozenski, with the assistance of a Politruk-

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25X1A

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- 3 -

deputy, and has a staff of approximately 50 physicians, 100 auxiliary workers, including two registered nurses for each department, and an administrative staff of about 40. The station is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and cares for an average of 400 patients per day. Approximately 20 cases of venereal and skin diseases are treated in the station daily.

14. In addition to the first aid stations at the hospitals and at the central medical station, there are four additional ones in Warsaw. One ambulance station (Pogotowie Ratunkowe) with approximately 50 ambulances is located on Ulica Hoza, and another with ten ambulances is located in the Praga District. Also, every hospital has one or two ambulances for its own use.
15. The initial monthly salary of a young physician, regardless of his place of work, is 700 to 800 zloty, rising to a maximum of approximately 2,000 zloty for head physicians of hospitals. The lowest salary, Grade 5, is 700 zloty with an additional allowance of 100 zloty for a child. There is no difference between the salary of a single or married physician. The difference between the salaries of uneducated auxiliary workers in the health services and those of the nurses and physicians is negligible.
16. Young physicians after graduation are enlisted in the Army with the rank of lieutenant (Porucznik) for a period of service of not less than two years; they may be held longer and even forced to serve for an indefinite time. Physicians who are not subject to active military service are issued Army Reserve booklets (Ksiazka Oficerska) by the military authorities for their residence (Rejonowa Komenda Uzupełnien). The same applies to nurses, who receive the rank of second lieutenant (Podporucznik) in the Army Reserve. The code number of physicians, entered in their Army Reserve booklet, is 249.
17. The greatest preoccupation of the health authorities is the extremely large number of tubercular patients in Poland, believed to be still on the increase and the greater part still undetected. The central anti-tuberculosis institute in Warsaw is the Anti-Tuberculosis Institute (Instytut Przeciw Gruźliczy), located on Ulica Gruszecka. Groups of factory and office workers from the Warsaw district are constantly being sent to this institute for examination, as is being done in all larger towns of Poland. Miners are now given a medical examination twice monthly and are taken off work at the slightest sign of tubercular infection. There are four or five tuberculosis hospitals in the country, the largest being those at Otwock-Srodborow and Zakopane. Trade courses are held at these hospitals for cured patients, enabling them to train themselves for some kind of light work, so that they do not have to return to their former employment in a mine, factory, etc.
18. Polish penicillin, which according to expert opinion is unsatisfactory and cannot be compared with Western products, is available in unlimited quantities at a price of 13 zloty for 200,000 units. Though larger hospitals in certain cases use penicillin imported from the West, medical stations (polyclinics for outpatients) are provided with Polish penicillin only. The import of penicillin from Denmark and Sweden has now been made possible by means of trade agreements with these countries. The price of American penicillin on the free (black) market is 40 zloty for 200,000 units.
19. PAS (para-amino-salicylic acid) of Polish and Soviet manufacture is used very little in the treatment of tuberculosis. It has also been discovered that the new anti-tuberculosis drug, Rimifon, which sold at 100 zloty for 100 tablets on the free market while the official price was 30 to 40 zloty for 100 tablets, has a very damaging effect on a great percentage of patients and cannot be as widely used as first envisaged. The only efficient tuberculosis drug, streptomycin, is available from the United States and England only, through gift parcels marketed by the recipients or by the Base pharmacy in Warsaw, which is the only enterprise licensed to buy Western medicines received by private individuals from abroad. The official price of streptomycin is 20 zloty per gram, while the free market price is 50 zloty. Chloromycin and aureomycin, which are not available officially, cost 600 zloty for 12 dragees and 700 zloty for 12 capsules on the black market.

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- 4 -

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Comments:

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1. [REDACTED] Dr. Jerzy Sztachelski was still Minister of Health and both Dr. Kozusznik and Dr. Bednarski served as his Under Secretaries in January 1954.
2. This may be the same as the Training Department reported by other channels. On 19 March 1953 Rowinski (fnu) was Director of the Training Department.

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3. [REDACTED] reported Dr. Zygmunt Grynberg as one of those secretly dismissed from the Ministry of Health. Other information [REDACTED] states that he was Director of the Planning Department.

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